

REMARKS

Claims 1-3 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,246,994 to Wolven et al. ("Wolven") taken alone.

Previous Claims 1- 3 have been amended and new Claims 4-21 have been added. A capability of the present invention, which is not shown or suggested in the prior art, is the capability of the system, and by way of the inventive method, for vendors to monitor the inventory of products in the possession of their customers by virtue of a pre-authorized permission to access and analyze the customer's inventory. When inventory drops below a predefined re-supply level, the system triggers the re-supply of that product to the customer(s) (or buyer(s)).

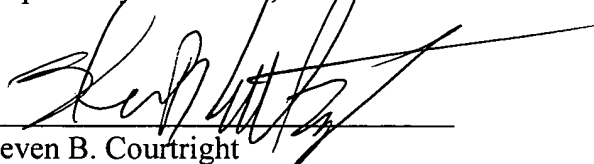
This feature and capability is a distinction not shown or suggested in any of the cited prior art.

Thus, the applicants request reconsideration and a Notice of Allowance of all claims. This is being filed concurrently with a Petition for Extension of Time. If for any reason the Examiner is unable to allow the case, the Applicants request that the Examiner please contact Applicants' representative at (312) 673-0360.

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Respectfully submitted,



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